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Reviewed work(s):
Source: *Iran*, Vol. 9 (1971), pp. 87-96
Published by: [British Institute of Persian Studies](#)
Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4300440>
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THE PROTO-ELAMITE SETTLEMENT AT TEPE YAHYĀ

By C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky

Until very recently the archaeology of southeastern Iran was all but unknown. The pioneer work of Sir Aurel Stein¹ laid a foundation only recently amplified by the work of Professor J. Caldwell² and Miss B. de Cardi.³ With the completion of our third season of excavation at Tepe Yahyā the area becomes one of fundamental importance, suggesting the need for major revisions to established chronological sequences and shedding wholly new light on the economic exchange mechanisms bringing Mesopotamia, the Persian Gulf, Elam, and the pre-Harappan Baluchistan painted pottery cultures into a shared "oikoumenē". Our past three seasons of excavations at Tepe Yahyā have been published in monograph form and is presently available.⁴ It is our purpose here to summarize the results of our 1970 field season (June 20–August 30)⁵ specifically the recovery of our Proto-Elamite settlement.⁶

Tepe Yahyā, located in the Kirman Province of Iran, is approximately 225 km. directly south of Kirman, and 30 km. northeast of the town of Dolatabad. Standing to a height of 19.8 meters it is the largest prehistoric site known in southeastern Iran. To date, after three seasons of excavation we have established the following sequence:⁷

Period I	Partho-Sasanian	pre-400 A.D.
Period II	Achaemenian	300–500 B.C.
Period III	Iron Age	500–1000 B.C.
Period IV A	Elamite(?)	2200–2500 B.C.
IV B	Proto-Elamite	2500–3000 B.C.
IV C	Proto-Elamite	3000–3400 B.C.
Period V	"Yahyā Culture"	3400–3800 B.C.
Period VI	Coarse Ware "Neolithic"	3800–4500 B.C.

This paper concentrates entirely on the Proto-Elamite settlement of Period IV B and IV C, which provides the archaeological setting of the Proto-Elamite tablets, cylinder and stamp seals, ceramics, steatite, their architectural associations, and their implications to general chronological and culture historical reconstructions. The linguistic analysis of the texts and their possible translation are left to more capable hands.⁸

The Proto-Elamite settlement rests on a solid foundation evident already in the Period V occupation at Yahyā. This period is stratigraphically subdivided into three superimposed building phases, the

¹ See Stein, M. A., *Archaeological Reconnaissances in Northwestern India and Southeastern Iran* (London, 1937).

² See Caldwell, J. R., *Investigations at Tal-i-Iblis*, Illinois State Museum. Preliminary Reports, No. 9, Springfield, Ill. 1967.

³ See de Cardi, B., "Excavations at Bampur S. E. Iran: A Brief Report" *Iran* VI (1968), pp. 135–155, bibliography of other articles on Bampur available in above.

⁴ See the author's *Excavations at Tepe Yahya, Iran, 1967–69*. Progress Report I, American School of Prehistoric Research, Bulletin No. 27, Peabody Museum, Cambridge, Mass. and the Asia Institute of Pahlavi University, Shiraz, Iran. Monograph I (1970).

⁵ Excavations have been supported by the National Science Foundation (GS-1572, GS-2066), The Ford Foundation, and the Peabody Museum. The 1970 season included Mr. Gholam Ali Shamlou for the Iran Archaeological Service, Dr. E. C. L. During-Caspers, Dr. Nagaraja Rao, James Humphries, Martha Prickett, Elizabeth Stone, Andrew Williamson, Pauline Shenkman, William Fitz, Philip Kohl, and Thomas

Beale. The art work was done by Miss Ann Hechle and a special thanks to our photographer Mr. Alexander D. Kernan for producing the photos included here under the pressure of limited time.

⁶ I would like to thank Professor Sir Max Mallowan and Dr. Georgina Herrmann for allowing me to submit this article at a late date and allowing for its rapid publication.

⁷ For full discussion, and illustration, see Lamberg-Karlovsky, *Excavations at Tepe Yahya I*.

⁸ For a general discussion of the Proto-Elamite system see W. C. Brice, "The Writing and System of the Proto-Elamite Account Tablets", *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* 45, No. 1 (1962). This article also includes a fine bibliographic review. Even to the uninitiated in the mysteries of Proto-Elamite writing we can see that the numerical system on the Yahyā tablets is similar to those of the Susa Cb tablets. While both contain several identical signs there are variations unique to each.

middle phase (Period V B) is radiocarbon dated to 3660 ± 140 B.C. (Washington State University-872). Our exposure has uncovered several rooms of each phase, all of small domestic nature and quite in contrast to the larger and non-domestic character of the later Proto-Elamite settlement. Walls are built of thumb-impressed brick. Already in Period V the settlement evidences a prosperity in the use of local and imported resources: beads of carnelian, turquoise, steatite and ivory; bowls of alabaster and steatite; stamp seals of clay and stone, microliths of obsidian and a wide variety of flint colours; copper-bronze chisels, awls, and pins. Of considerable interest is the presence of camel bone in the debris of the rooms of this period, as well as in the earlier Period VI. Perhaps of greatest importance is the complete absence of a stratigraphic hiatus separating Period V from Period IV. In fact, there is every evidence to support a direct continuity of ceramics, i.e. numerous shapes and painted motifs of Period V are directly continuous into Period IV C and IV B.⁹ Our evidence does not support the contention of an arrival of new peoples in Period IV responsible for the Proto-Elamite settlement but rather for an indigenous development.

Period V architecturally and ceramically can be directly paralleled in the Iblis I–II levels¹⁰ and clearly to the site of Chah Hussein reported by Stein.¹¹ Parallels to sites on the Iranian Plateau, i.e. Sialk (II–III) are considerably more tenuous. We argue thus for an indigenous development in the setting of the highlands of southeastern Iran, with a distinctive continuity from earlier periods for the development of the Proto-Elamite settlement at Tepe Yahyā. It is to that settlement that we now turn.

Period IV C

The architecture of IV C represents a break in the function evident in the earlier buildings. Constructed directly above the domestic complex of Period V is a large single architectural unit outlining at least 5 rooms. The entire complex is known to be larger, buried beneath the overburden toward the heart of the mound, which only future seasons will uncover. The specialized function of the rooms are indicated through the recovery of tablets, cylinder sealings, and large storage jars recovered from one room (Pl. I). There is no fortification wall about the settlement. The building is oriented to the cardinal points and constructed of sun-dried bricks ($24 \times 24 \times 12$ cm.); walls are three bricks thick and are standing to a height of slightly less than a metre. To date we have fully cleared to floor level part of one room measuring 6.5×3.5 m (Pl. I: IV C). The material recovered from this room includes: bevelled-rim bowls of two sizes, the illustrated one being the smaller variety (Fig. 3, J), three large storage jars (empty), over 24 cylinder sealings (Fig. 2, Pls. IV–V), six Proto-Elamite tablets (Fig. 1, Pls. II–III), and at least 84 tablet blanks without writing (Pl. III, o). All of the above were found in the fill *directly* above or on the floor of the room. The cylinder sealings were found lying directly on the floor in proximity to the large storage vessels; the Proto-Elamite tablets were scattered on the floor in the southeast quadrant of the room, while the tablet blanks formed a distinctive pile in the southeast corner (Pl. I: A). Two of the tablets are written on both sides, Fig. 1: tablets 1 and 2 and their opposite sides 1A and 2A.

The bevelled-rim bowls are of a thinner and harder variety, very like those reported from Susa C¹² and Tal-i-Iblis¹³. The cylinder sealings find almost identical parallels in the sealings of Susa Cb, in which Proto-Elamite tablets were also recovered¹⁴ (Fig. 2, Pls. IV–V). The recovery of 6 Proto-Elamite tablets clearly associated with 84 identically shaped tablet blanks surely indicates that the tablets were being written at Yahyā, perhaps in that very room, and not imported. The tablets indicate records of economic transactions. They, as well as the tablet blanks, are of unbaked dark brown clay, moulded to an oblong shape, and convex in profile. They are inscribed from right to left, beginning at the top. An incised line separating the lines of writing is drawn after the lines have been written. The tablets with writing on

⁹ Description and illustrations of pottery from all periods at Tepe Yahyā are presented in Lamberg-Karlovsky, *Excavations at Tepe Yahya I*.

¹⁰ A comparison of the pottery drawings of Iblis I–II and Yahyā V A–C from both monographs show exact parallels in design motif and shapes.

¹¹ See Stein, *ibid.*, p. 127. Compare Pl. XIX, Hus. 585 with its exact parallel in Lamberg-Karlovsky, *ibid.*, Fig. 39 A–C.

¹² Discussed by Robert H. Dyson, Jr., "Problems in the Relative

Chronology of Iran, 6000–2000 B.C.", in R. W. Ehrich, *Chronologies in Old World Archaeology* (Chicago, 1965) pp. 223–5. Illustrated and more fully discussed in Dyson, "Excavations on the Acropolis at Susa and Problems of Susa A, B, C", Ph.D. thesis, Harvard University, Dept. of Anthropology, 1966.

¹³ See Caldwell, *ibid.*, 1967, pp. 37–9 and Fig. 39, p. 190.

¹⁴ Le Breton, L., "The Early Periods at Susa: Mesopotamian Relations", *Iraq* XIX (1957). An almost identical sealing from Yahyā is depicted on Pl. XXV, 10 by Le Breton.

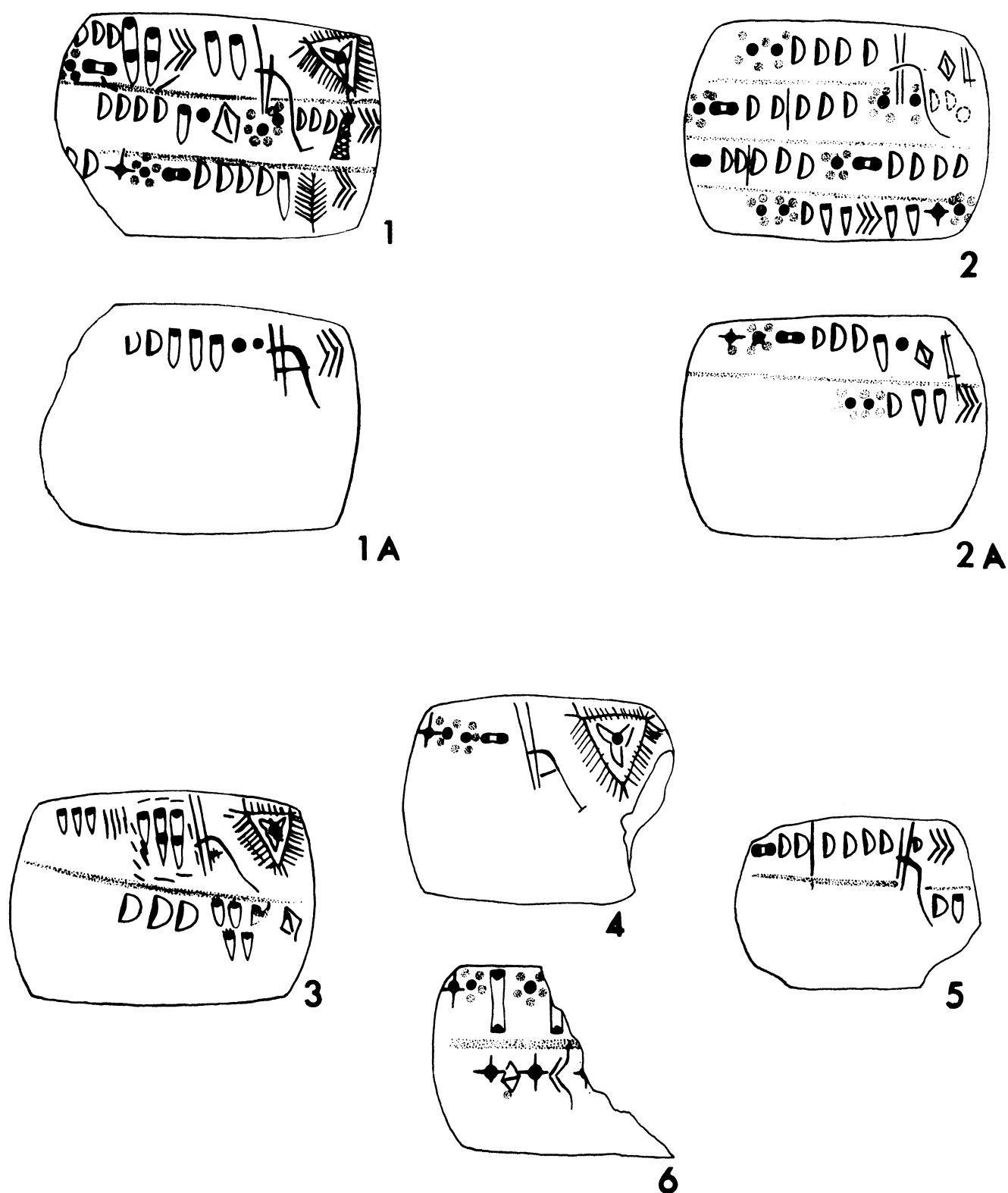


Fig. 1. Proto-Elamite tablets of Period IV C. Scale 1:1.

both sides were turned over completely on a horizontal axis, the inscription being continued on the reverse (Fig. 1:1,2).¹⁵

The Proto-Elamite tablets, bevelled-rim bowls and cylinder sealings all indicate strong Susa C, Iblis 5–6, and Sialk IV parallels. We obtain, however, a slightly different perspective in examining our ceramic parallels—which cannot be strongly tied to Sialk IV and for lack of sufficient published pottery to either Susa C or Iblis 5–6.

The pottery of Period IV C can be directly paralleled at Shahr-i-Sokhta III¹⁶ in the form of painted black on grey (Fig. 3: B, M, N), and black on buff (Fig. 3: R). The Yahyā IV C and IV B ceramics are also identically paralleled at Shāhdād, a settlement and cemetery site northeast of Kirman, excavated by Engineer Hakemi for the Iran Archaeological Service.¹⁷ There are strong parallels to Bampur throughout Period IV C and IV B.¹⁸ We have in the sealed fill of the IV C rooms material directly paralleled to the full corpus of illustrated Bampur I–IV ceramics. The presence of a streak-burnished grey ware in IV C and IV B can also be paralleled at Bampur.¹⁹ Whether or not this grey burnished ware is in any way (like the bevelled-rim bowls) related to the Late Uruk grey ware of Mesopotamia and Susa C is still to be worked out, certainly they could be chronologically contemporary. We are unable to distinguish the same periodization at Yahyā to support the Bampur sequence—the distinct periods of Bampur I–IV ceramics appear in the single stratigraphic complex of Yahyā IV C. The ceramics of Period IV B incorporate the later Bampur V–VI materials. It is evident that Yahyā IV C, Shahr-i-Sokhta III, Bampur I–IV, Shāhdād and Iblis 5–6 share a ceramic tradition and suggest a southeast Iranian “oikoumenē”. Are we justified in suggesting that here in the eastern highlands of Iran we may discern the heartland of the Proto-Elamite culture? We believe that the later efflorescence and consolidation apparent in Period IV B supports this contention.

Above the large architectural complex of IV C, in fact the walls of the rooms of the Period IV B architecture rest on the nubs of IV C walls, we uncovered a large complete room (Pl. I). Ceramic types are directly continuous from IV C to IV B. Changes which are evident are statistical, i.e. an increase in the percentage of certain types (streak-burnished grey ware) in IV B over IV C, or conversely, a percentage decrease in certain types (painted black on red and black on grey). One type only appears discontinuous: the bevelled-rim bowl. In over 200 square metres of exposure for Period IV B we have not recovered a single bevelled-rim bowl.

Period IV B

The architecture of IV B consists of three superimposed phases of building, the lowermost, from which radiocarbon dates are derived, is best preserved (Pl. I). The radiocarbon dates are: 3280 ± 170 B.C. (Geochron Labs.–1734) and 3245 ± 465 (Washington State University 876). We await an entire series of dates for Period IV B and IV C from the Tata Institute for Fundamental Research, Bombay.

¹⁵ The known corpus of Proto-Elamite tablets from Susa number 1,406; from Sialk 19. Previously, only these two sites have produced Proto-Elamite tablets. The Susa tablets have been published in *M.D.P.* VI (1905), XVII (1923), XXVI (1935) by V. Scheil, and XXXI (1949) by R. de Mecquenem. Sialk tablets are published by R. Ghirshman, *Fouilles de Sialk I* (Paris, 1948).

¹⁶ My thanks to Dr. Maurizio Tosi for allowing me to study his collections at IsMEO, Rome. We have both had the opportunity to see each other's collections and in our collaboration agree on the nature and extent of parallels between Shahr-i-Sokhta and Yahyā.

¹⁷ Engineer Hakemi allowed me to look at the materials from Shāhdād in the Iran-Bastan Museum. There can be little doubt that Shāhdād, between Yahyā and Shahr-i-Sokhta, is closely tied in ceramics to both sites. At Shāhdād Mr. Hakemi has found inscribed complete pots incorporating as many as

seven signs which he rightly identifies as Proto-Elamite. I am deeply grateful to Mr. Hakemi for permission to look at his rich collections from Shāhdād. I might add here that the Khinaman hoard of bronze shaft-hole axes and bronze vessels can be exactly paralleled in the latest graves at Shāhdād, which Mr. Hakemi believes to be ca. 2500 B.C. (see C. Greenwell, “Notes on a Collection of Bronze Weapons, Implements, and Vessels found at Khinaman to the West of Kerman in southeast Persia by Sir Percy Molesworth Sykes, C.M.G.”, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 37 (1907), pp. 196–200.

¹⁸ Compare for instance Fig. 3: A with de Cardi, *Iran VI*, Fig. 5, 6; Fig. 3: H with Fig. 9: 44; Fig. 3: E with Fig. 11: 85; Fig. 3: I with Fig. 11: 86; Fig. 3: P with Fig. 11: 77. These are but a few of the parallels linking Yahyā to Bampur!

¹⁹ See de Cardi, *Iran VI*, Fig. 9: 53, Fig. 11: 81, 8a.

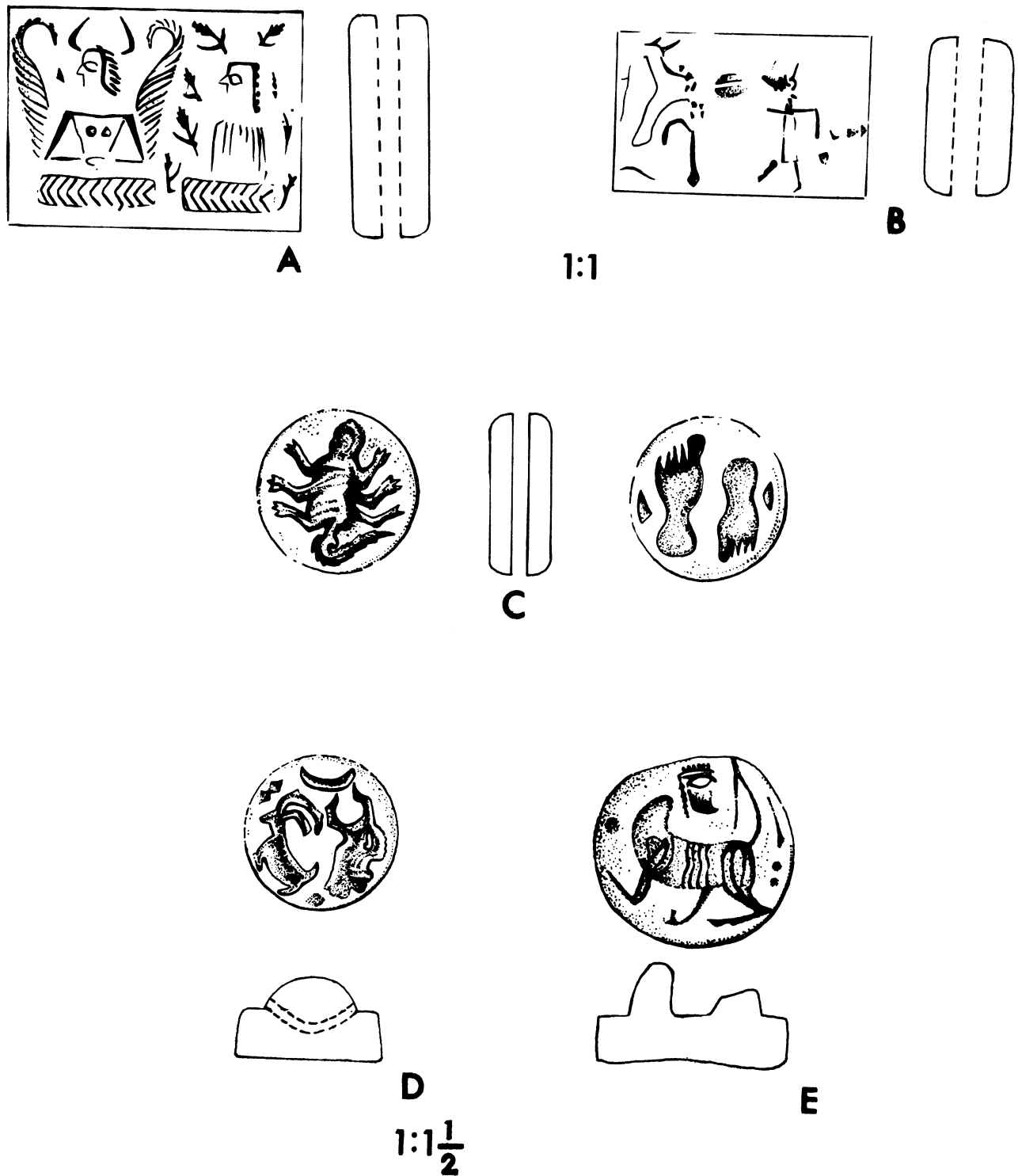


Fig. 2. Steatite seals of Period IV B.

India and Geochron, Cambridge, Massachusetts.²⁰ A date just prior to those above is wholly consistent for Susa C and a Late Uruk assemblage. What is of very considerable interest is the associated material of Period IV B.

The lowermost building of Period IV B (Pl. I) consists of a large rectangular structure (7·7 × 2·8 m) divided into two rooms; adjacent to them are smaller rooms containing large storage bins of unfired clay. The bricks are of different size than those of IV C, being rectangular (36–42 × 24 × 12 cm) in shape. The walls of the rooms are one brick thick and finely plastered, both inside and out. The structure is not oriented to the cardinal points. Inside the room were found seven reconstructable pots, including grey-burnished and painted varieties (Fig. 3: F), as well as storage vessels still containing several kilos of charred grain. The grain as well as burned walls and reed matting, resting on the floor, suggests that the building came to a quick end through fire. Resting on the floor of the room (Fig. 2: A) and in the fill *directly* above the floor were found cylinder seals and stamp seals (Fig. 2). They are all clearly associated with the time of the building. One of the stamp seals is similar in composition of ibex, cattle, half-moon, to one found in Bahrein, and clearly belongs to the “Persian Gulf” type (Fig. 2: D).²¹ The seal of a man and woman resembles one found at Yaḥyā, the season of 1969 (Fig. 2: A).²² From a preliminary study of both the stamp and cylinder seals it would appear that but for most generalized Mesopotamian similarities the seals are to be identified as of Proto-Elamite manufacture finding their origins in the southeastern highlands of Iran.

The pottery of this period has been illustrated in my monograph, we need reiterate here only its direct continuity from IV C and their parallels to Shahr-i-Sokhta IV, Hili,²³ Umm-an-Nar, and the later periods of Bampur and Shāhdād.

We have added to our rich corpus of steatite objects. To date we have recovered from IV B contexts over 1000 fragments of steatite, both carved and plain bowls, beads, seals, buttons, etc. The carved steatite bowls incorporate the major motifs of curvilinear and geometric designs, architectural scenes (hut-pot), and human and animal figures, all readily paralleled at Ur, Ubaid, Tell Asmar, Mari, Khafajeh, Mohenjo-daro, Bampur, to name but a few.²⁴ In Mesopotamia they have been principally dated to Early Dynastic III, however a few pieces in good context indicate an Early Dynastic II date (Nippur, see *Illustrated London News*, Sept. 9, 1961). We illustrate here for the first time 3 major pieces found this past season (Fig. 3: S, T, U). The motif of intertwined snakes with feline heads (Fig. 3: U) as well as snake and lion (Fig. 3: T) are both readily paralleled at Mari from the Ishtar Temple.²⁵ At Mari they are dated to E.D. III. Our third piece (Fig. 3: S) is without parallel, but for a rather similar eagle incised on a steatite shaft-hole axe from Yaḥyā.²⁶ Indeed, it can be fairly said that every major motif on steatite bowls known from Mesopotamia can be readily paralleled at Tepe Yaḥyā.²⁷ Furthermore, we have found numerous incompletely cored steatite vessels, unfinished steatite beads, seals, etc. This together with carved solid blocks of steatite indicate that steatite objects were manufactured at Tepe Yaḥyā. In addition, this past summer we located a large steatite mine in the mountains to the north of Yaḥyā (25 km) with evidence of strip mining. There can be little doubt of its local origin and workmanship! Although steatite objects are present in every period at Yaḥyā it is in this period that one sees its greatest use. We believe that the well known collections of carved steatite bowls in Mesopotamia are of Proto-Elamite workmanship and imports from southeastern Iran where steatite is known to be present. The local production of this type of steatite begins at Yaḥyā perhaps as early as 3000 B.C. and is

²⁰ I would like to thank Dr. D. P. Agrawal and Dr. M. S. Nagaraja Rao for accepting and analyzing a series of dates from Yaḥyā to be undertaken at the Tata Institute.

²¹ See G. Bibby, “Arabiens Arkaeologi”, *Kuml* (1966), p. 79, f. Note also on pp. 88–89 of that same journal: from Hili, Abu Dhabi, incised grey ware copying motifs of Yaḥyā IV B steatite. The painted pottery of Hili is also paralleled at Yaḥyā IV B, C.

²² Additional stamp and cylinder seals of IV B are illustrated in Lamberg-Karlovsky, *Excavations at Tepe Yahya I*.

²³ My thanks to Karen Frifelt for showing me her materials from this site while on a recent visit there.

²⁴ See Lamberg-Karlovsky, *ibid*, and F. A. Durrani “Stone

Vases as Evidence of Connections between Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley” *Ancient Pakistan* 1 (1964), pp. 51 ff. for the most comprehensive published catalogue and bibliography.

²⁵ Parrot, A., *Le Temple d’Ishtar*, (Paris 1956), Pl. XLIX, 267.

²⁶ See Lamberg-Karlovsky, *ibid*, Fig. 22, B.

²⁷ Miniature steatite vessels and steatite seals with zoomorphic designs from the Late Uruk-Jemdat Nasr levels at Tell Brak suggest the extensive use of steatite in Syria at the same time as at Yaḥyā: see M. E. L. Mallowan, “Excavations at Brak and Chagar Bazar”, *Iraq* IX (1947) Pls. VIII–XX, and Pl. LII, Nos. 1–6.

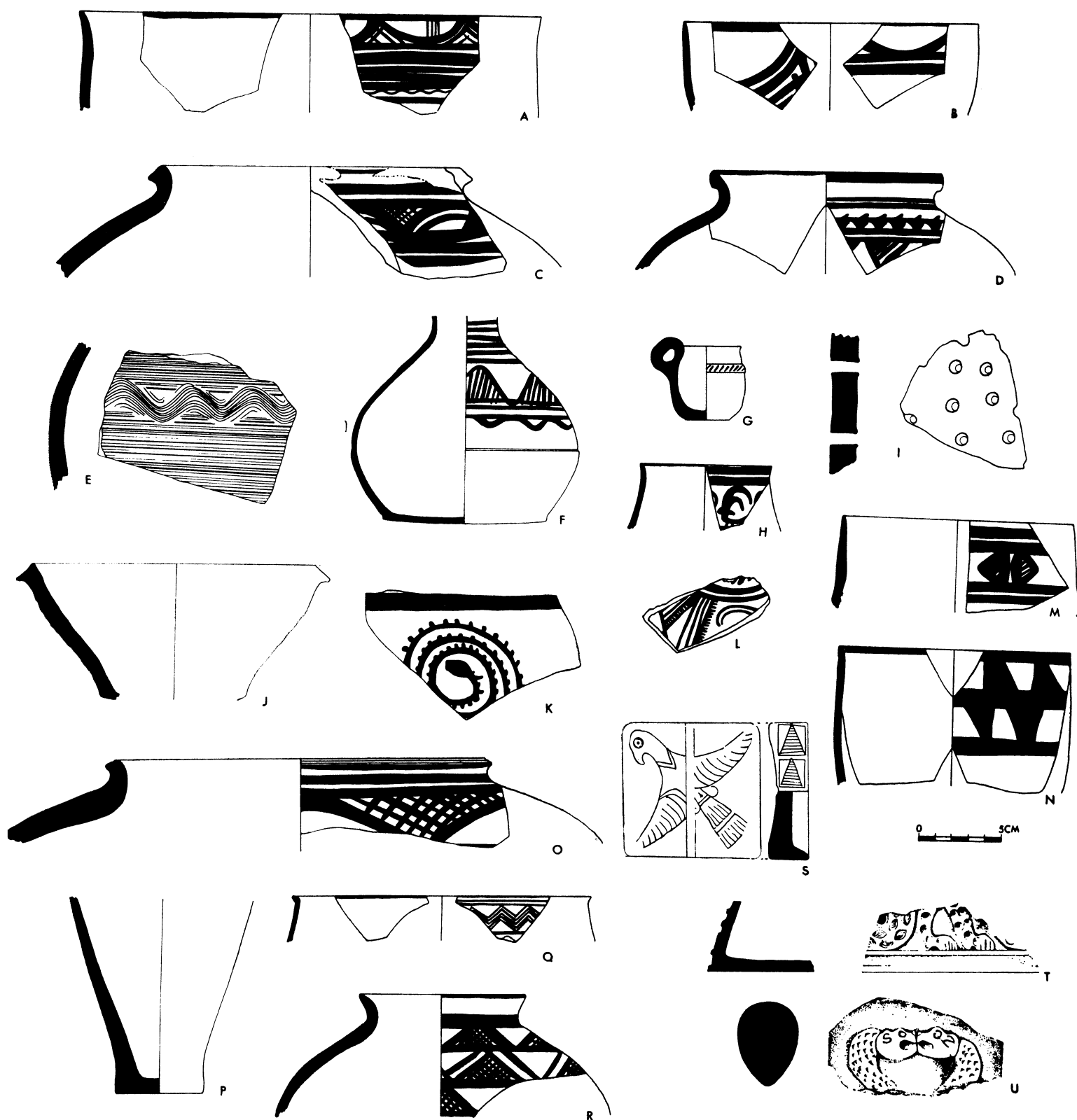


Fig. 3. Ceramics and steatite from Period IV B and IV C.

certainly arriving in Mesopotamia by E. D. II times, if not earlier. Carved steatite bowls have not been recovered from Period IV C, and are rare in the lowermost phase of IV B, becoming very common in the later phases of IV B (3000–2800 B.C.). Over 25 complete steatite vessels have been found in the tombs of Shāhdād. In shape and decorations they can be precisely paralleled in our IV B corpus.²⁸

The work and recovery of the Proto-Elamite settlement at Tepe Yahyā has obvious and important implications for our understanding of the chronological and cultural reconstructions throughout this large area of Baluchistan, Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia. Firstly, on chronology: we will be able through a series of radiocarbon dates to establish fixed dates to the Late Uruk, Proto-Elamite configuration in this area, Susa C, and indirectly for the steatite parallels and Early Dynastic parallels in Mesopotamia. Already our C-14 dates are indicative. Our dating will also establish the first understanding of the period of export of steatite from Yahyā and southeastern Iran. The carved steatite fragments in House V, Room 53 in DK area and House III, Room No. 76 at Mohenjodaro can be precisely paralleled at Yahyā.²⁹ It would appear that these pieces can now be dated to the first quarter of the Third Millennium. This together with the presence of Nal sherds in our Period V suggests that the pre-Harappan painted pottery (Nal) dates to as early as the end Fourth Millennium while the early Harappan may start even earlier than the reasonably supposed 2500 B.C. Certainly, we cannot accept the lowering and restricting of Harappan chronology to 2300–1700 B.C.³⁰ The presence of a “Persian Gulf” type seal in IV B supports a beginning Third Millennium date for the beginning of the Bahrein sequence, already indicated by the presence of Jemdet Nasr sherds in Barbar Temple I.³¹ Our strong parallels to Bampur I–IV in Period IV C indicates an end Fourth Millennium date for the beginning of the Bampur sequence and a mid-Third Millennium date for its end, based on IV B parallels with the end of the Bampur sequence. All of the parallels worked out for the Bampur sequence have thus either to shift or to be discarded, particularly for the late Bampur VI assumed date of ca. 2000 B.C. which is far too late!

Secondly, we would like to point out that our site has *no* evidence for the presence of the Kulli Culture. Much has been made of and suggested for the Kulli “merchant-venturers” of the Third Millennium.³² We find it indicative that at Tepe Yahyā with obvious evidence for long range exchange patterns there is a lack of an identifiable Kulli element. Until we hear from the important work of Professor J.-M. Casal at Nindowari it is best to call a moratorium on ascribing to Kulli the responsibility of “international trade”—a conception without evident support.

Thirdly, it becomes evident that with the distribution of Tepe Yahyā, Bampur, Shahr-i-Sokhta Tal-i-Iblis and Shāhdād we have an expansive distribution of contemporary and ceramically related sites. We suggest that there is here a shared cultural “oikoumenē” identifiable as Proto-Elamite.³³ Clearly, the nature of the settlement pattern, the degree of uniformity between the sites, their socio-political and economic configurations (Yahyā’s export of steatite, Shahr-i-Sokhta’s export of lapis lazuli and alabaster, etc.) need individual attention before the above hypothesis becomes wholly acceptable.

²⁸ I have recently seen numerous pieces of carved and uncarved bowls of steatite sent to me by Mrs. Bert H. Golding from sites along the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia and the island of Tarut (see G. Bibby, *Looking for Dilmun* (1969), pp. 313–15; 369–72). These steatite fragments incorporate carved designs and shapes paralleled at Tepe Yahyā. My thanks to Mrs. Golding for sending photographs, drawings and samples on which we will run, together with our samples, analytic tests.

²⁹ See E. J. H. MacKay, *Further Excavations at Mohenjodaro* (Delhi, 1938), Pl. CXCH and J. Marshall *Mohenjo-daro and the Indus Civilization* (London, 1931), Pl. CXXXI and Lamberg-Karlovsky, *Excavations at Tepe Yahya I*, Fig. 21: B, D, E and F as well as Pl. 23: A, F.

³⁰ D. P. Agrawal, “Harappan Chronology: A re-examination of the Evidence” in Robert Bruce Foote Memorial Vol., Ed. D. K. Sen and A. Ghosh, Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta, 1966. See also Sir Max Mallowan’s discussion of the relative chronology in “The Early Dynastic Period”, *C.A.H.* I, Ch. XVI (1968), pp. 7–8 and note 2, p. 7.

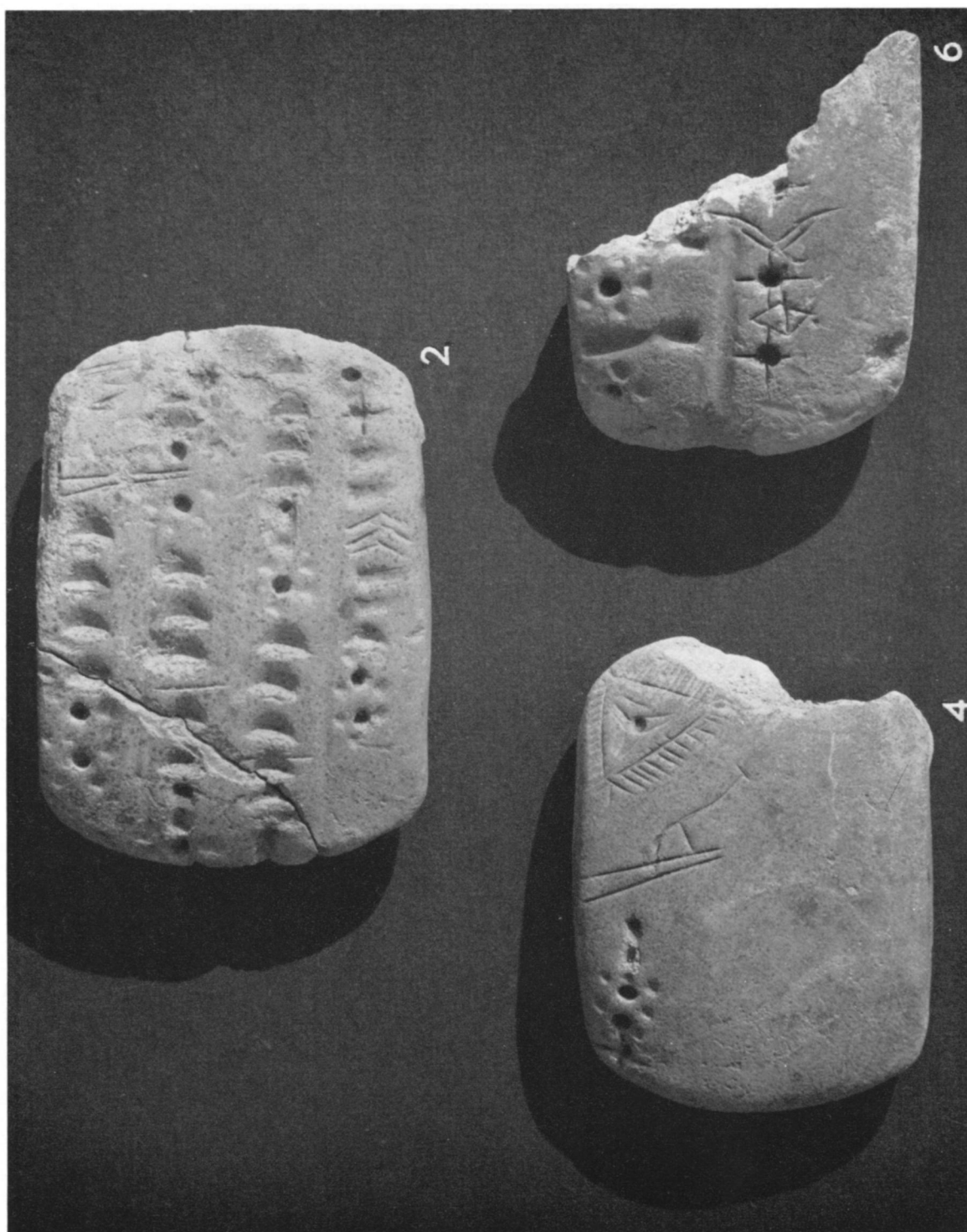
³¹ Paper presented by Mr. Peder Mortensen, “The Barbar Temple of Bahrein” at the Third International Congress of Asian Archaeology, Bahrein, March 1–8, 1970.

³² See George F. Dales, “A Suggested Chronology for Afghanistan, Baluchistan, and the Indus Valley”, in R. W. Ehrich, *ibid.* (1965), pp. 268–74; see also by the same author “On Tracking Woolley Kulli’s and the Like”, *Expedition* 12, No. 1 (1969), p. 15 ff.

³³ In a study of H. Field’s surface collections from his reconnaissance in West Pakistan (*An Anthropological Reconnaissance in West Pakistan, 1955*, Harvard University, Vol. LII, 1959). I have been able to isolate precise parallels in the surface pottery from Dundkian, Fort Derawan, Turanwali, Lahrewala, Sullah, Pakoto, Shahi-tump and the ceramics of Yahyā IV B and IV C. Further survey in Iran between Tepe Yahyā and the Pakistan border is being undertaken by Mr. William Fitz, Jr., Miss Martha Prickett, and Dr. E. C. L. During Caspers—all covering different areas and all affiliated with our Yahyā Project.



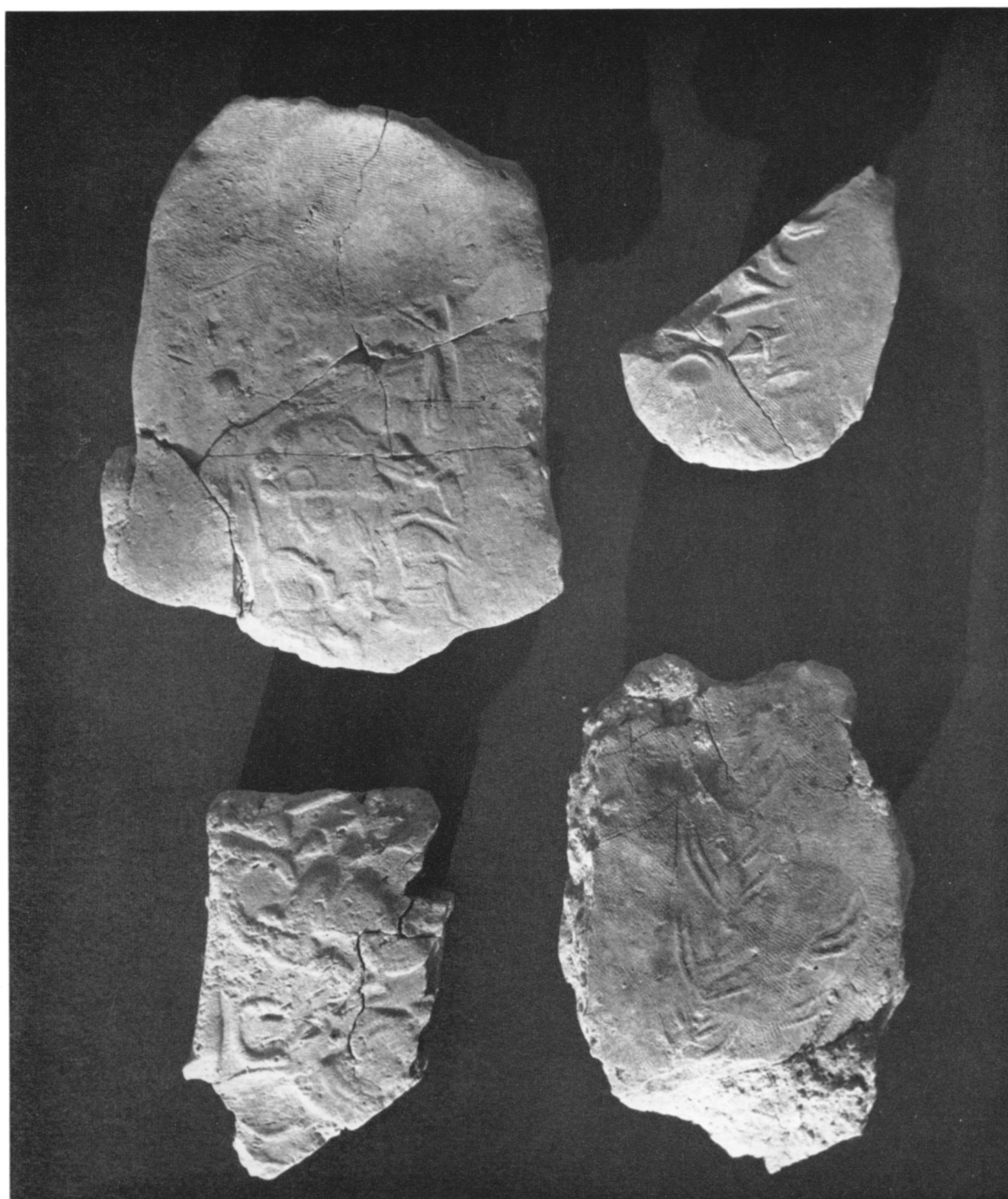
Pl. I. Tepe Yahya: Period IVC and IVB architecture from above.



Pl. II. Proto-Elamite tablets from Tepe Yahya.



Pl. III. Proto-Elamite tablets from Tepe Yahya.



Pl. IV. Cylinder sealings from Tepe Ychya.



Pl. V. Cylinder sealings from Tepe Yahya.



Pl. VI. Steatite cylinder seal and impression, Period IVB, Tepe Yahyā.

I have elsewhere presented an interpretation of the nature and purpose of steatite trade,³⁴ which is concerned with the most peripatetic of archaeological objects of early Third Millennium Mesopotamia, Iran, Baluchistan, and the Persian Gulf. Clearly much more remains to be recovered, considered and classified.

“ May the land Magan (bring) you mighty copper, the
strength of . . . , diorite, u-stone, shumash-stone . . .

Steatite=u-stone? shumash-stone?

³⁴ See Lamberg-Karlovsky, *Excavations at Tepe Yahya I*. The entire discussion in Period IV covers this ground.

CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<i>Illustration</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Locus</i> ¹	<i>Description</i>
Fig. 1:1-6	IV C	BW-20	Unfired clay, tablets
Pl. I	IV C	BW-20	Unfired clay, tablets
Fig. 2:A	IV B	B:BW-7-1	Steatite, cylinder seal
B	IV B	B-6	Steatite, cylinder seal
C	IV B	B-4	Steatite, disc seal
D	IV B	B:BW-TT4-6	Steatite, stamp seal
E	IV B	B-TT3-2	White stone (?)
Fig. 3:A	IV B	B-10-2	Black on red
B	IV C	B-18	Black on reduced grey
C	IV B	B:BW-TT4-9	Black on buff
D	IV B	B:BW-TT5-1	Black on red
E	IV C	B:BW-TT4-4	Incised, multiple comb
F	IV C	B:BW-TT4-7-1	Black on reddish brown
G	IV B	B:BW-TT3-10	Reserve slip
H	IV B	B-TT4-2	Black on buff
I	IV C	B:BW-TT4-1	Coarse grit buff ware
J	IV C	BW-20	Coarse, chaff grit, bevelled rim bowl
K	IV C	BW-20	Black on buff
L	IV C	B-TT5-5	Black on buff
M	IV B	B-11	Black on reduced grey
N	IV C	B-20	Black on reduced grey
O	IV B	B-TT4-2	Black on red
P	IV B	B:BW-TT5-2-1	Coarse grit, buff
Q	IV B	B-11	Black on red
R	IV B	B-11	Black on buff
S	IV B	B(e)-TT1-3	Steatite (incised)
T	IV B	XA:TT1-1B	Steatite (piece out of context in Period I)
U	IV B	B-2	Steatite
Pl. I	IV B-IV C	B-20	Architecture
Pls. II-III	IV C	B-20	Proto-Elamite tablets
Pls. IV-V	IV C	B-20	Cylinder sealings

¹ Area of excavation=B, BW; TT=test trench; followed by strata number and feature number. All finds are from 1970

season and beneath areas evidenced in published sections, Lamberg-Karlovsky, *ibid*, 1970.